# GRINNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



12th Annual Grinnell Shop with a Cop



#### **MISSION**

To protect and serve the community of Grinnell, providing a peaceful and safe existence, free from fear and with democratic values applied equally to all citizens.

Dennis M. Reilly Chief of Police

# GRINNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA

**FROM:** Dennis Reilly, Chief of Police **DATE:** January 27, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor Gordon Canfield
Honorable City Council
Russell L. Behrens, City Manager
P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk
Citizens of the City of Grinnell
Members of the Grinnell Police Department

#### **SUBJECT:** Grinnell Police Department 2015 Annual Report

It continues to be an extreme honor and privilege that I present to the citizens of Grinnell, the Grinnell governing body and members of the department, the Grinnell Police Department's annual report. While reviewing this report, please keep in mind that the professional activities performed by this department would not be possible without the continued efforts of its members.

This report details the numerous activities of the department, and includes materials such as crime statistics and the initiatives that we utilize to deal with criminal activity. This report also provides an opportunity for the public to see the various roles that the Police Department plays, and what activities we are engaging in to protect the public while continually striving to maintain an open and professional relationship with the people that we serve.

This report will provide the reader with a summary of the following aspects and activities of the Grinnell Police Department: Current staffing levels and duties; Calls for Service and Investigations; Traffic Safety; Reserve Police Officers; Training; Crime Prevention and School Based Activities. With a change in records management providers during the year, there is the potential for a 10-15% statistical differential.

#### **STAFFING:**

The Grinnell Police Department is currently staffed with 17 employees (15 sworn police officers and 2 civilian employees). We are also very privileged to have the services of a Reserve Officer. Of the 15 sworn, there is one (1) Chief of Police, one (1) Captain, three (3) Sergeants and ten (10) Police Officers.

The following is an overview of our staffing assignments:

<u>Chief</u> – Chief Executive of the Grinnell Police Department who serves as the final department authority in all matters of policy, operations and discipline.

<u>Captain</u>- Represents the second highest level of command within the Police Department and falls under the immediate command and direction of the Chief of Police. The Captain is responsible for the administration and/or oversight of department operations, Internal Affairs, Public Information Officer, Quartermaster, training, scheduling, jail administration, Property & Evidence operations, and Special Events.

#### Sergeant (3)

- (1) Dayshift In addition to being responsible for first line supervision of officers assigned
  to the day tour, the dayshift sergeant also serves as our Investigations Commander and arson
  investigator, Law Enforcement Intelligence Network liaison, Field Training Officer and
  Reserve Instructor.
- (2) Nightshift In addition to our two night shift sergeants being responsible for first line supervision of officers assigned to the night tour, their collateral duties include: Field Training program coordination; Information Technology; Arson investigation; Reserve Officer program; Traffic; tobacco and alcoholic beverage compliance

#### Patrol Officers- Ten (10) assigned to 12-hour patrol shifts

- In addition to their primary responsibility of patrol operations, all patrol officers have collateral duties that include, but are not limited to: firearms training; defensive tactics; vehicle maintenance; vehicle nuisance abatement; Crime Prevention, community activities and school based programs, bike patrol and animal control coordination.

#### Investigator

- In addition to his responsibilities as a dayshift patrol officer, our criminal investigator is responsible for the investigation of criminal activity, to include narcotics, and processing of crime scenes.

#### Civilians (2)

- Administrative Assistant Responsible for assisting department administration with various office management tasks, to include: accounts payable and receivables; payroll; time accrual tracking and correspondence. The Administrative Assistant is also responsible for management of the Property & Evidence function.
- <u>Dictation Clerk</u> Responsible for various typing assignments, to include incident reports for officers, as well as computer data entry. The Dictation Clerk is also responsible for the management and submission of the Uniform Crime Report.

#### CALLS FOR SERVICE AND INVESTIGATIONS:

In 2015 we continued to experience criminal activity that requires a great deal of attention and expertise on the part of our officers. The statistical portion of this report was primarily generated from our computer system that is shared with the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office. On July 1, 2015 we began utilizing a new records management system called Zuercher Technologies. With the implementation of this system, officers now have access to department records while on patrol. This access includes the ability to: perform name and address searches, complete reports and review calls for service. This system has also provided the department with the opportunity to go virtually paperless as it relates to reports and documents associated with investigations.

In 2015 our officers responded to, or initiated, 7,747 calls for service, which is a 36% increase from 2014. These calls for service include, but are not limited to: reports of criminal activity; motor vehicle crashes; assists to other agencies; medical and fire emergencies; alarm activation responses, business and property checks and other service related functions.

Of the 7,747 calls for service in 2015, 1,251 of those resulted in incident reports (criminal cases) being filed and investigated. This is an increase of 4.6% from 2015 and 15.5% increase from 2013.

There were 70 narcotics related cases in 2015, which is equal to 2014. The average number of narcotic investigations over the last ten years is 73 cases. In 2012 we lost federal funding through the Edward

Byrne Justice Assistances Grants. This grant provided for the funding of 75% of salary and benefits for our officer assigned to the Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (MINE). The loss of this funding, coupled with a manpower shortage, resulted in the removal of our officer assigned to the task force. In 2014 we combined narcotic investigations with other criminal investigations, and distributed the workload between our investigator and the sergeant in charge of investigations. As in 2013, our narcotic investigations dealt solely with activity within Grinnell. It is my hope that in 2016 we would be able to re-connect with the task force concept, which I believe would provide for more of a pro-active approach to narcotic activity taking place within the city.

Domestic Violence is a national problem, where it is estimated that a woman is assaulted in the United States every nine seconds and is the leading cause of injury to women. Grinnell continues to be not immune to this wave of violence, and the members of this department take an aggressive approach to this behavior, while working within the limits of the Iowa Domestic Abuse statute. In 2015 the Grinnell Police Department responded to approximately sixty-two (62) reports of Domestic Abuse, which is a 45% increase from 2014 and 24% increase from 2013. Over the last ten years, the Grinnell Police Department has averaged 100 responses per year to domestic violence allegations.

Addressing quality of life issues is of particular focus for the police department in order to maintain what we enjoy here in Grinnell. Included in those quality of life issues are reports of disturbances (fights; Neighbor disputes; Juvenile problems; Noise Complaints) and alcohol related events. In 2015 we responded to 509 disturbance and alcohol related calls for service. Often times the root cause of a disturbance is alcohol consumption or controlled substance use, so a prompt response is necessary to minimize the potential for these incidents to mushroom into something more serious, such as assaults and criminal mischief. In 2015 the Grinnell Police Department investigated 82 assault cases, and 105 criminal mischief cases.

In 2015 the Grinnell Police Department responded to 221 reported thefts, an increase of 13%, while fraud investigations increased from 22 to 71. This significant increase in fraud investigations is a result of our new records management system, which automatically creates a criminal case investigation when an officer is dispatched to a report of fraud. Often times the reporting party is referred to another agency since the offense did not take place in Grinnell. More often than not, thieves are nothing more than opportunists. While the likelihood of eliminating thefts is doubtful, the public can certainly help themselves from becoming a victim of theft by securing their homes and vehicles when not occupied, while also not leaving valuables out in plain view for all to see and remove. Instances of identity theft and deception schemes often take place by persons who are not in the United States, which makes investigation difficult. What is important for our residents to remember, especially our elderly who are often times targeted, is that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true. We are also working with our retail partners to help prevent, or aggressively pursue, acts of retail theft.

In 2015 the Grinnell Police Department investigated 44 cases involving an accusation of burglary, which is below the 10 year average of 53. These burglaries are generally more attributed to vehicles and commercial properties, then residential. The highest number of reported burglaries was 99 in 2000. As with most property crimes, burglary suspects are often times opportunists. The vast majority of burglary suspects are not looking for confrontation, but instead looking to slip in and out without detection. They look for indicators of an unoccupied residence or vulnerabilities with a business, such as no lights on during the evening hours, news papers or mail not being taken in, cash being left in business registers, poor exterior lighting and possibly the lack of any video monitoring or alarm system. The burglar will also look for homes with overgrown bushes or poor lighting near entry points, which provides concealment Leaving a residence, or vehicle, unlocked while unoccupied also does not help matters. The public plays an incredible role in property crime prevention and identification. When a resident or

business owner observes something that looks out of the ordinary, they are encouraged to contact the police department. The members of the Grinnell Police Department would much rather investigate a suspicious person or vehicle, and determine that no criminal activity was taking place, instead of determining after the fact that someone had observed suspicious activity that turned out to be the suspect of a burglary or theft.

Aside from murder, which we were fortunate not to encounter in 2015, sexual abuse cases are probably the most significant crime against persons that an officer can be assigned to. In most instances, these crimes are committed by suspects who are known by the victim. In 2015 we investigated 12 cases of sexual abuse, which is a decrease of 5 from 2014. While it is difficult to determine a root cause for these acts, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has identified a number of risk factors that lead to sexual assault. These factors include risks associated with the individuals involved, relationship factors, as well as community and societal factors. Those interested in learning more about these risk factors can visit the CDC article online at

http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html.

More serious crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson) are tracked yearly by the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S.D.O.J.). These crimes are considered by experts to be the most serious and the most commonly reported crimes occurring in the nation. For Grinnell in 2014 (most recent data available from FBI), there were 26 violent crimes or 2.8 crimes per 1,000 inhabitants (0 murder, 5 rape, 0 robbery, 21 aggravated assault) and 232 property crimes or 26 crimes per 1,000 inhabitants (59 burglary, 169 larceny-theft, 4 motor-vehicle theft, 6 arson). With violent and property crimes combined, there was a 5.6% increase from 2013 (34 violent/210 Property). While the total percentage increased, this is a result of an increase in property crimes since we experienced a decrease in crimes against persons. In Iowa for 2014 there were 2.7 violent crimes and 21 property crimes per 1,000 inhabitants.

The following table illustrates a comparison of Grinnell with similar Iowa cities serious crimes statistics in 2014 (latest FBI data available):

CITY	POPULATION	CRIMES		
		VIOLENT	PROPERTY	
Grinnell	9,009	26	232	
Mount Pleasant	8,662	11	253	
Norwalk	9,554	1	90	
Le Mars	9,788	17	225	
Fairfield	9,488	9	285	
Waverly	10,089	55	151	
Storm Lake	10,812	51	217	
Perry	8,065	44	161	
Carroll	9,988	13	94	
Pella	10,418	17	166	
Fort Madison	11,012	57	215	
Oskaloosa	11,570	N/A	N/A	
Average	9,871	25	174	

In 2015 our criminal investigator handled 33 investigations that resulted in the clearance of 25 cases, or a 75.8% clearance rate. An additional 5 cases were classified as open-inactive, meaning that there were no further avenues of investigation available to either identify a suspect or gather enough evidence that rose to the level of probable cause to make an arrest. An additional 3 cases are still active and have been

carried over into 2016. Since my arrival in Grinnell it has been my desire to transition our part-time investigator role in to more of a full-time function. This would enable the department to take more of a pro-active approach to criminal activity while relieving patrol officers from prolonged investigations. While budgetary restrictions appear to make it difficult to assign an officer to full-time investigations in 2016, as mentioned previously it is my goal for a full-time investigator assigned to the M.I.N.E. task force. Offenders of property crimes are often times involved in the use of controlled substances. By focusing more proactively on the narcotics activity in town, it would be my expectation that some of our property crime activity would be dealt with simultaneously.

There were 389 arrests in 2015, a decrease of 30% from 2014. Of those arrested in 2015, 27 were juveniles (some with multiple offenses charged), which is down from 70 in 2014 and 34 in 2013. Among the charges levied against juveniles were alcohol offenses (Public Intoxication, Possession Under Legal Age), possession of a controlled substance, curfew, interference and theft.

In order to effectively deal with the more serious criminal conduct within our community, we make an effort to deal with the smaller problems before they become bigger ones. Methods such as community policing and intelligence led policing, coupled with aggressive enforcement efforts, are effective means of keeping the crime rate low. We also continue to reach out to the community to reinforce our need for their assistance in reducing crime.

#### **TRAFFIC SAFETY:**

In 2015, officers issued 757 citations (65% increase from 2014) and 1,561 warnings (39% increase from 2014). The three E's of Traffic Safety are: Enforcement; Education; Engineering. By using a combination of citations and warnings, officers are educating motorists on matters of traffic safety while taking enforcement action by stopping the motorist and providing them an opportunity to take their own corrective action.

There was a 9% increase in vehicle crashes causing property damage this year, with 205 occurring. Despite the increase in property damage crashes, we continued to experience a decrease (27%) in personal injury accidents with 12 taking place. We did experience an increase in hit and run crashes, with 32 responses in 2015 as compared to 21 in 2014. There were no fatal crashes in 2015.

In 2015 we continued to receive grant funding from the Governor's Highway Traffic Safety Bureau, Iowa Department of Public Safety. This special Traffic Enforcement Program (s.T.E.P.) grant has been awarded to us for the past few years. It is used for overtime during traffic enforcement projects around the holidays and other events where there is likelihood of violations. It also provides for the purchase of equipment such as radar units. In 2016 we will be purchasing a new in-car camera utilizing funds from this grant.

In our continuing effort to promote traffic safety amongst the drivers who travel our roadways, we also utilize a speed trailer to educate motorists on speed. The trailer consists of a radar unit, which determines a vehicle speed and then displays the target speed for the vehicle operator to see. The purpose of the trailer is to condition motorists to continually monitor their speed in relation to the posted or statutory speed limit. Drivers will often times drive at a speed that they feel comfortable at, instead of monitoring what the posted or statutory speed limit is. The trailer also has the capability of gathering statistics such as traffic volume and speed. When a speeding complaint is received, the trailer can be used to determine the speed and volume of vehicular traffic, based on time of day and day of week. This permits the police department to target problem areas during those times when violations are more prone to be taking place.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is estimated that almost 30 people per day die in alcohol-impaired driving crashes nationally. In 2014, 93 people lost their lives to alcohol-impaired driving crashes in Iowa. In order to try and prevent these tragedies from occurring in Grinnell and the surrounding area, our officers are trained in the detection and apprehension of impaired drivers. In 2015 our officers made 45 Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) arrests, which is up from 34 in 2014. Considering that nearly 50% of all fatal crashes involve the use of alcohol, enforcing OWI laws is an important mission. Our department will continue to train all officers in OWI enforcement.

There were 867 parking tickets issued in 2015, up from 631 in 2014. Parking violations can cause vision obstructions, jeopardize pedestrian safety (especially near schools and college campuses) and hamper snow removal efforts.

#### **RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS:**

In 2015 the Grinnell Police Reserve Unit was led by Sgt. Ben Gray. We are currently reviewing a number of applications for the reserve program and hope to increase our numbers in 2016. Our reserve officers are mandated by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) to maintain their State of Iowa reserve certification, which requires a significant amount of training each year. Our reserves are required to provide a designated number of hours each month, while also assisting with the many events held in Grinnell during the year. We are always looking for qualified, dedicated and civic-minded individuals to join our reserve unit.

#### TRAINING:

Training of our entire staff remains a priority for the police department. There are mandatory training requirements put in place by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy to obtain, and maintain, police officer and instructor certifications. We continue to exceed those requirements. Captain Petersen coordinates the training of department members. We conduct both in-house training, by utilizing our own instructors and local expertise, as well as sending officers and civilian employees to training at remote sites. Since 2013, we have expanded our firearms training by conducting quarterly training. Officers engaged in both live fire and simulated exercises, which focus not only on their firearms proficiency, but also tactical skills as it relates to tactical entry and building searches.

#### **CRIME PREVENTION:**

The Grinnell Police Department continues to work with the community in crime prevention programs and methods. It is critical to our operation that we foster and maintain relationships with our community and businesses. In 2015 Officer Rod See managed the crime prevention duty for most of the year, with Officer Mike Dickenson taking over in September. As part of our continuing effort to work closely with the various groups and entities of the Grinnell community, we are also involved in many coalitions and committees, such as: Grinnell College Parking Committee; Poweshiek County Healthy Choices; New Horizons Advisory Board; Poweshiek County DVA/SAC Coalition; Grinnell Chamber of Commerce and others. We have historically worked very closely with the Grinnell-Newburg School District, and 2015 was no exception. The programs provided by the Grinnell Police Department included, but are not limited to: Citizen Police Academy, National Night Out, A.L.I.C.E. training, Camp 911. In 2015 the Grinnell Police Department presented at approximately 27 events, reaching out to almost 900 people.

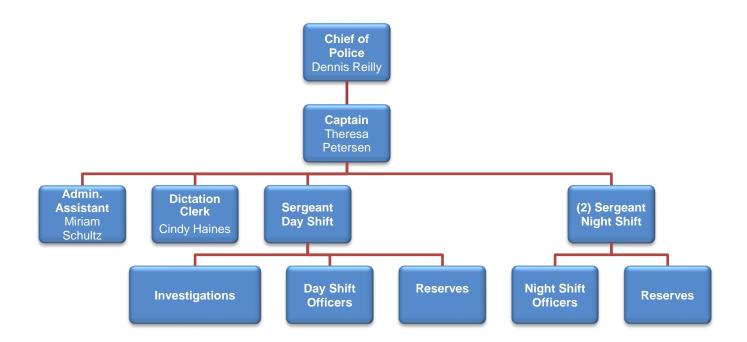
In 2013 Officer Heath Jepson were certified as A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) instructors. A.L.I.C.E. training was developed following the examination of school environment shootings, such as Columbine High School in 1999. This training provides students and educators with options during an active shooter incident. In 2015 A.L.I.C.E. training was provided to a number of entities in Grinnell. In 2016 Officer Dickenson will become an A.L.I.C.E. instructor and assist in this worthy training.

#### ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND PROGRAMS

- Hosted Grinnell's 13th Annual National Night Out (NNO) program with the Grinnell Optimist Club. NNO is a police and community partnership that is designed to:
  - Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
  - o Generate support for, and participation in, anti-crime programs
  - o Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
  - Send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back
- Camp 911 was conducted in August, with community youth being presented with the various aspects of first responder services in Grinnell.
- Held the 12th Annual Shop with a Cop program with many businesses, community members, and the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce as sponsors. This event would not be the success that it is without the support and assistance of such entities as: The Grinnell Middle School, Galaxy, the Chamber of Commerce staff and their membership. This program helps deserving children enjoy their holidays, while also providing our officers with an opportunity to spend time with children of the community, which ultimately fosters improved relationships.
- Coordinated the 7th Citizen's Police Academy. This program provides community members
  with an opportunity to learn the many facets of law enforcement, and includes a ride-a-long with
  a Grinnell officer. Since 2012 we have increased our efforts to include the Grinnell College
  students as participants.
- During the course of the year Ofc. See and Ofc. Dickenson provided robbery training to banks in Grinnell. This training has been previously provided to a number of banks located in Grinnell.
- Conducted periodic bicycle and foot patrol operations in the downtown area, residential
  neighborhoods and at Grinnell College, promoting community interaction and deterring crime
  through high visibility.
- The nuisance animal enforcement effort continues to raise owner awareness with the goal of voluntary compliance of city animal laws. This assignment is coordinated by Ofc. Stuart Fricke. Enforcing the animal license requirement on a consistent basis keeps animals accounted for and encourages owners to be more responsible. We work closely with the Jasper County Animal Rescue League, who provides certified Animal Control Officers to assist with investigations while also responding to pick up stray dogs. In the fall of 2014 we adjusted our response to stray cats by only picking up those cats which appear to be sick or injured.
- The Grinnell Police Department is also responsible for the enforcement of the city's ordinance on nuisance vehicles. In 2015, 16 nuisance vehicle investigations were conducted by officers Greg Nelson and Mike Dickenson. Chapter 51 of the municipal code defines what a "Junk Vehicle" is. First time offenders are issued a warning, while repeat offenders are cited for each subsequent violation. As with our other enforcement efforts, the police department seeks voluntary compliance from our residents on the storage of vehicles.
- Facilitated many tours of the police and fire departments to various groups and individuals.

- We continue to work with the Poweshiek County Emergency Management Agency (EMA).
   Coordinator Trisha Rooda assists us with training, planning and resources during large scale incidents.
- Officers continue using mobile data computers (MDC) in the patrol cars with wireless capabilities, enabling them to fulfill our mission of providing the best law enforcement services possible. In 2015 we transitioned to a new Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System, in coordination with the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office and Grinnell Fire Department. Our goal is to enhance dispatch capabilities while providing officers on the road with information that was previously only accessible from their office computer. With the new system, officers are able to perform such functions as: see their calls for service and see real-time updates coming in from dispatch; review call for service history for persons and/or premises; perform inquiries to see if a person has a no trespass or no contact order against them; complete case reports and call for service narratives in their vehicles. In the very near future, in coordination with the fire department, officers will also be able to review building plans of a given business or school.

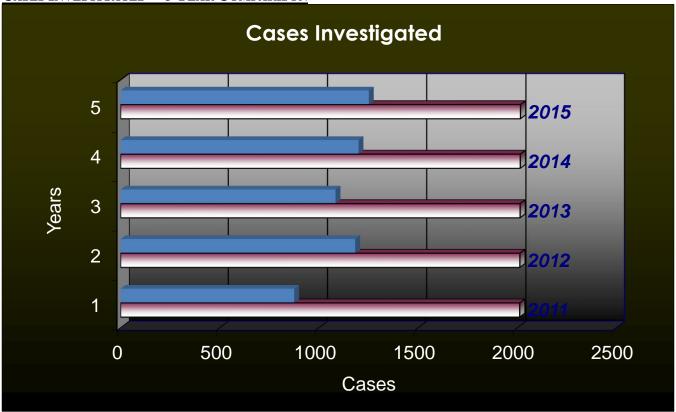
### **DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE DECEMBER - 2015**



## **CALLS FOR SERVICE SUMMARY**

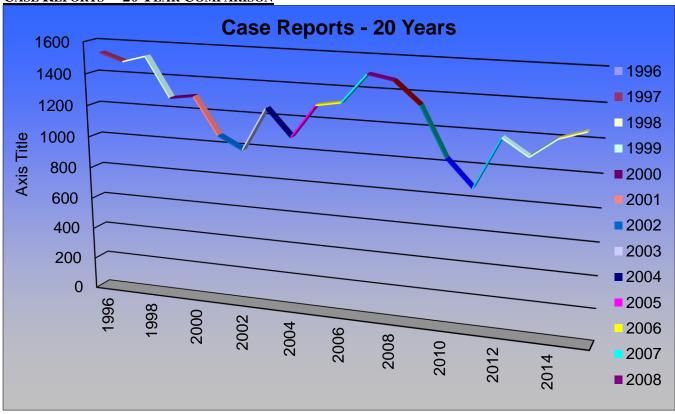
Type of Call	2014	2015	Difference	% Difference
Calls for Service	5695	7747	2052	36.0%
Incident Reports	1199	1251	52	4.3%
Traffic Enforcement	2245	3231	986	43.9%
Motor Vehicle Crashes	228	236	8	3.5%
Arrests	557	389	-168	-30.2%
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	9924	12854	2930	29.5%
Controlled Substance Cases	70	70	0	0.0%
Assault cases	112	82	-30	-26.8%
Burglary cases	62	44	-18	-29.0%
Sex Abuse cases	17	12	-5	-29.4%
Theft cases	195	221	26	13.3%
Domestic Abuse calls	40	62	22	55.0%
Disturbance calls	224	230	6	2.7%
Alcohol Offense calls	48	20	-28	-58.3%
Animal Complaints	256	224	-32	-12.5%
Arson	6	2	-4	-66.7%
Robbery	2	0	-2	0.0%
Fraud	22	71	49	222.7%
Traffic Enforcement	2014	2015	Difference	% Difference
Citations/Warnings	1580	2319	739	46.8%
OWI – Operating While Intox	34	45	11	32.4%
Parking Tickets	631	867	236	37.4%
Totals	2245	3231	986	43.9%
<b>Motor Vehicle Crashes</b>	2014	2015	Difference	% Difference
Property Damage	188	205	17	9.0%
Personal Injury	19	12	-7	-36.8%
Hit and Run	21	32	11	52.4%
Totals	228	249	21	9.2%

CASES INVESTIGATED - 5 YEAR COMPARISON

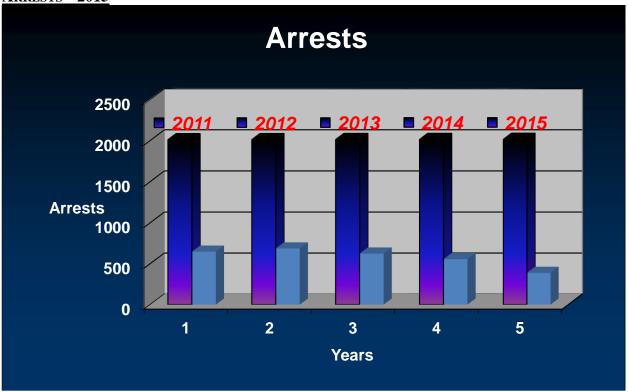


**Percentage Difference 14-15 = 4.3%** 



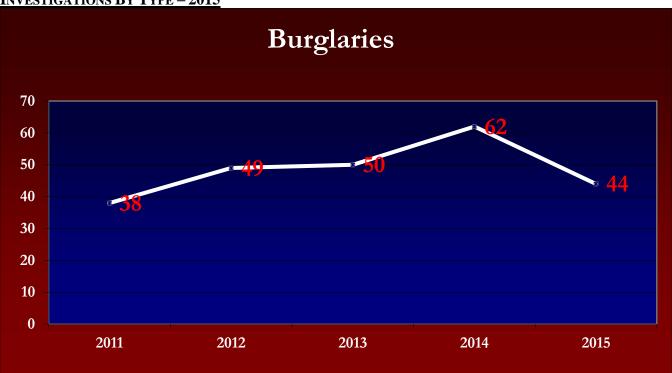


 $\underline{ARRESTS - 2015}$ 

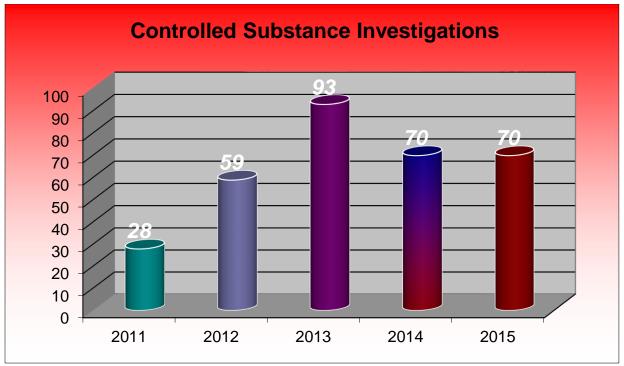


Percentage Difference 14-15= 30%

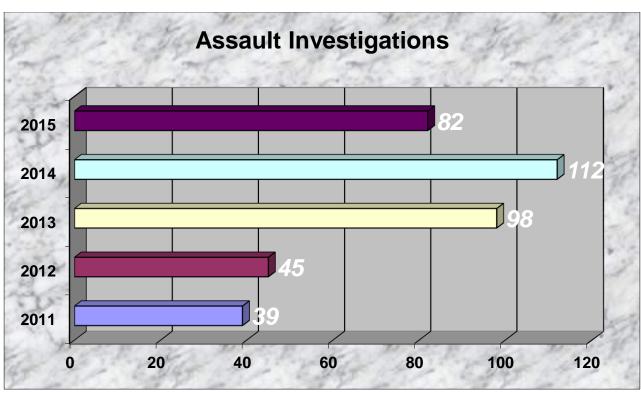




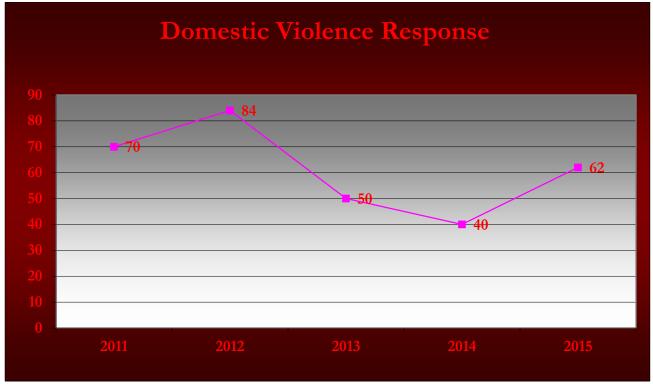
**Percentage Difference 14-15 = 46%** 



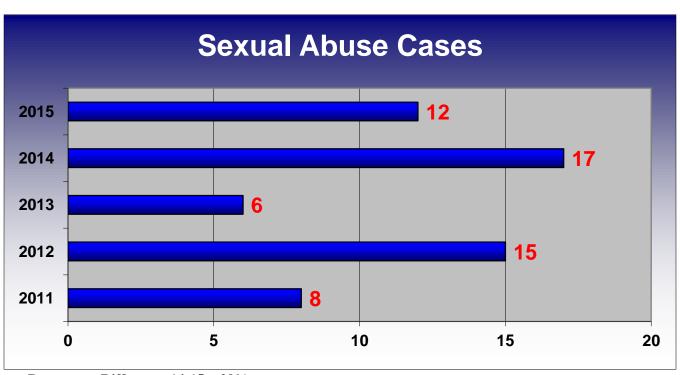
Percentage Difference 14-15 = 0%



**Percentage Difference 14-15 = 26%** 



**Percentage Difference 14-15= 55%** 



**Percentage Difference 14-15 = 29%** 

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Reilly Chief of Police